(b) There is no immediate proposal to raise the ceiling limit.

Opening of Sub-Office of ESI at Coimbatore

433. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite Government's decision to open a Sub-Office of ESI at Coimbatore long back, the decision has not been implemented till date;

(b) whether Government are aware that this delay is causing untold hardships to the workers; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to expedite the opening of the said Sub-Office?.

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Although the ESI Corporation had earlier approved, in principle, the setting up of a Sub-Regional Office (SRO) at Coimbatore, the SRO could not be opened so far due to certain administrative problems relating to posting of staff. The problem has, however, since been sorted out. The Corporation has designated an officer as Incharge of the Sub-Regional Office. The proposal for hiring of accommodation has also been approved. The SRO is, therefore, expected to start functioning as soon as transfer of records and other necessary arrangements are completed.

Vacation of encroachment in Basant Village

434. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 1179 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 28th July, 1989 and state:

(a) whether Government had ordered for taking action against encroachers of public thoroughfare in Basant Village, Delhi as early as on 3rd March, 1986;

(b) if so, whether the said encroachment has been vacated so far; and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the new Government are taking any action to implement the decision?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

435. *[Transferred to the 26th December, 1989]*

Repairing of quarters occupied by Press Workers in GIP colony in Howrah

436. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from Press Workers residing at GIP colony, Santragachi, Howrah, West Bengal for repair and renovation of their quarters;

(b) whether the condition of the said quarters are so bad as to threaten the safety of the residents; and

(c) if so, what steps Government have taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The buildings are in a dilapidated condition and major repairs are required. Suitable action is under consideration.

Restarting of Mangala Express

437. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to restart the Cochin-Mangalore-Nizamuddin Mangala Express which was started in 1977 and discontinued last year; and

(b) what steps Government propose to take to help the passengers from Delhi to Kerala as the existing seating capacity by any train is not adequate?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The service was replaced by Kerala-Mangala Express and the existing facilities between Delhi and Kerala are by and large adequate.

Declaration of coconut as an 'Oilseed'

438. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to declare coconut as an oil seed; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor and what are the criteria of declaring any crop as oil seed?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) It is not considered necessary to declare coconut as oil seed because being a plantation crop, distinct from annual crops of other oilseeds coconut requires specialised handling for which Coconut Development Board has been set up. Besides, only a small part of this crop is being used as edible oil.

Any annual field crop whose primary product is an oil, is considered as an oil seed crop.

Himsagar Express

439. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to shorten the running time and route distance of Himsagar Express from Jammu Tawi to Kanyakumari by running it on the initial route; and

(b) whether the frequency of this train will be increased?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

SC/ST persons engaged in Agriculture and yet to get rid of indebtedness from the traditional money lender

440. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any survey recently to assess the number of persons belonging to Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes who are engaged in agricultural work and are yet to get to rid of indebtedness from the traditional money-lender;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to remove the burden of loans on these persons?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Various States and Union Territories have enacted debt relief legislations to reduce debt burden by liquidation of loans pertaining to non-institutional sources of credit. Further, the aim of the Government is to make institutional credit easily available to all farmers including those belonging to Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes at concessional rates of interest.

441. *[Cancelled]*

Allotment of flats under HUDCO

442. SHRI SHANKARRAO NARAYANRAO DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state by when Government propose to allot flats to all those who had registered with DDA in 1979 under the HUDCO Housing Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): The remaining registrants are expected to be allotted flats by March, 1994.